



**Town of Indian Trail**  
**Minutes of Town Council**  
**March 8, 2011**  
**Civic Building**  
**6:30 P.M.**

The following members of the governing body were present:

Mayor: John J. Quinn

Council Members: Robert Allen, Gary D'Onofrio, Jeffrey Goodall, John Hullinger, and Darlene Luther.

Staff Members: Town Manager Joe Fivas, Town Attorney Keith Merritt, Finance Director Marsha Sutton ,  
Town Engineer Scott Kaufhold, Tax Collector Janice Cook, Economic Development  
Coordinator Kelly Barnhart, and Deputy Clerk Trena Sims

Media: Jill Leamy of the Enquirer Journal

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Quinn called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATIONS**

a. **Sun Trust Bank Crossing Paths Park Donation**

Mr. Nick Tarlton, Branch Manager presented Council with a \$700 check to be applied to a park bench for Crossing Paths Park, stating that Sun Trust is proud to be a part of the community.

Mr. Fivas explained the benefits of staff's outreach efforts of Sun Trust Bank.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Jeffrey Goodall made a motion to approve add to Consent Agenda 6f to include Hop To It and Sunset Series and Artisan market as approved Town events and 6g Reappointment of Wayne Bell to Transportation Committee Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA**

Jeffrey Goodall made a motion to approve Agenda as modified Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*No one had signed up to speak*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Tax Report - Month end for February 2011
- b. February 22, 2011 minutes
- c. PT&G reappointment of Committee Members Ed Dubisz and Nydia Morales
- d. Stormwater Committee reappointment of Larry Miller
- e. 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget Schedule

John Hullinger made a motion to approve pulling item 6b for discussion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Hullinger requested that the February 22, 2011 minutes be pulled from the Consent Agenda and requested that staff revisit them. He feels there were comments that were not included or were understated.

Mr. Goodall requested that Mr. Allen and Mr. Luther’s statements be included as well.

Ms. Luther requested that the minutes reflect that there are many important comments, one being that what Council agreed to was, in fact, what the residents wanted and what the residents came up with.

Jeffrey Goodall made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

*None*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a. **Format and topics for meeting with County Commissioners on April 12th.**

Mr. Fivas stated the County Commissioners will be paying a visit on April 12, 2011 and is a good opportunity for all parties involved. Staff will need to research items that Council may want to present at that time. The County may also need to research items they can have prepared for the meeting as well. At the last Council meeting there was

a discussion that 6 topics were presented when we met with them, and that you would like to decrease so that all parties can focus on certain topics.

Mr. Hullinger feels as a town we have been doing a lot to try and help with the road situation, as much as we can. We've been thinking outside the box and trying to strongly urge the State, but is there something the County can do to help us with that as well. He feels that widening Old Monroe Road will assist many jurisdictions in Union County and would like to know what the County can do to assist us in offsetting the price.

Mr. Goodall agreed with Mr. Hullinger and also believes the road issue should be addressed. The burden of widening Old Monroe Road should not be just Indian Trail; it will also benefit other municipalities. We had addressed this with the Board of Commissioners last year as well as other items and would like to know what happened from that meeting, were recommendations followed up on?

Mr. D'Onofrio agreed with his colleagues, suggesting that it takes in a lot of different ground such as economic development, travelling, job growth, adding more commercial tax base for the entire County and Old Monroe Road widening would benefit all of those items throughout the County. Mr. D'Onofrio said that the Council has agreed to assist in financing some of these transportation issues and has not met anyone who would not support their tax dollars being used for road improvement. He believes it's a great idea to discuss "how can we work together better?" What is the County's issue on Monroe, Indian Trail and Stallings (this is where the people are) probably consist of 50% of the County population. What consideration is given to what the 2010 Census has proven is Indian Trail is the largest municipality in the County.

Ms. Luther prefers an open discussion as she feels you glean the best information through back and forth conversation. Regardless of what the three questions are, roads, economic development and what stand/changes is the county going to make to bring businesses here. She expressed concern over the percentage of residential to industry. Incentives cannot just be considered on a municipal level but at the County level as well. We all stand to profit from it, whether it be employment, taxes or anything that is luring to a business. The water and sewer issues need to be addressed so all of us know what there is or isn't available and what will or will not be forthcoming. She briefly read that in 18 months the allocation issues might change and it'll be first come first serve, she would like to find out from them what their attitude is on this subject. If a municipality is ready to go and bring businesses in what do we have to do, will we have to turn them away because it's not 18 months later. They have allocation promised that is not being used and are changes being considered for that now as situations arise. In economic development, she would like to broach the subject of Partnership for Progress, believing the concept is good but feels they spend a lot of their business and time developing businesses in Monroe when the reality is all of the County is paying their tax dollars to the Partnership for Progress and she would like to talk about what their budget is, what the effectiveness is, how much money is brought in. She is not stating that she's against the Partnership by any means but feels it's a discussion that should be conducted, that if it stays great but perhaps a reemphasis that they should direct them to other municipalities as well.

Council continued to have a lengthy discussion on several areas of important and by consensus directed the Town Manager to provide a list of topics for discussion at the next Council meeting for approval to send to the County Commissioners.

Mr. Fivas clarified that Council would like to voice to the County and they should be prepared to answer the following:

- any ideas they have to assist us in improving our transportation infrastructure either monetarily or through other advocacy or partnerships.
- Ideas how we and the County can assist each other with Economic Development to improve our commercial tax base verses our residential tax base.
- As it pertains to schools, what are some of their thoughts and priorities on the budget and we will provide any ideas we might have on the budget.
- Water and sewer allocation and Partnerships for Progress.

Mr. Fivas suggested that he put all of this together and send to Council for review and discuss at the next meeting, Council agreed by consensus.

**b. Leash Law**

Ms. Luther advised that this was put on the agenda as a result of many requests she received from citizens inquiring if Council was going to address this matter in light of recent events regarding dog attacks in the newspaper. Ms. Luther read a response she made to one of these inquiries, citing many reasons why we should have a law in place and encouraged Council discussion on how to get it enforced. After a lengthy discussion, by consensus, Council agreed they would like staff to gather information from local jurisdictions, as well as other areas on what is or is not working with their leash laws.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Fivas provided copies of the article in The Enquirer Journal regarding the 2010 Census stating that Indian Trail has surpassed Monroe in population. He believes there will be information forthcoming regarding demographics that will be useful on many levels. He provided an update on Crossing Paths Park that most of the brickwork on the Amphitheatre is completed, lights have been installed outside the park and the grass will be planted this week. He made a public announcement that Council will meet on March 30th for a special meeting to discuss their goals and initiatives for next year.

**PLANNING REPORT**

Mr. Fivas advised that he has been interviewing Bond Counsel and should have someone in place within the next couple of weeks, no funds will have been expended at that time, but staff will present to Council the process involved as explained by the Bond Counsel they interviewed to ensure there is agreement with Council and the residents that is the best direction for the town.

Interviewing bond council and should have someone in place within the next week.

## **ENGINEERS REPORT**

Mr. Kaufhold provided a follow-up on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) direction to try to focus on Indian Trail intersections and using the grant money for that; it will be an action item at the MPO next Wednesday. MUMPO's technical committee gave an approval for the funds to be used for the intersection analysis in lieu of the CTP. Mr. Kaufhold feels it is just a formality of a brief discussion and should be approved.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. D'Onofrio had no comments

Mr. Goodall thanked all the citizens for participating and Luke Fawcett on doing a wonderful job with the 2010 Census and feels it's a significant event that Indian Trail overtook Monroe in the County seat in population. He advised the audience that three years ago Indian Trail had 2,000 more registered voters than Monroe. He feels that these figures (21,000 increases in 10 years) indicate that we are the overall town of choice.

Ms. Luther stated that she's very excited about it because for years she has heard that Indian Trail does not have the demographics to support many issues and now with this new Census data out it's hard to dispute that we have an entire County as one of the fastest growing in North Carolina. She is excited over the impact this will have on our Economic Development and having Kelly on staff to work and further our town. She is looking forward to the citizen survey results coming in and feels it will be a great community event for all of us to review.

Mayor Quinn said to support economic development you need rooftops, low taxes and roads, we certainly have that. The Gadberry Group identified Indian Trail in 2008 as one of the areas fastest growing communities that can support that kind of retail and the Census validates that study.

Mayor Quinn went on to advise that the Public Safety Committee is still listed on the Town's website as an active Committee and feels it should be taken down. In addition he sent an email the other day requesting that the Mayor's welcome letter be removed until a new one can be written to accurately reflect that Indian Trail is now the largest Town in the County. He put in a request a while ago for some information on research and study done by a former Town Manager and he's hoping to receive it. There is a Union County Transportation Board meeting on Thursday night and he would like to schedule a meeting with Mr. Fivas and the Town Engineer so he can be briefed prior to that meeting. He noticed on the census that there are a lot of vacant houses that we do not have in Indian Trail and recited some statistics.

Mr. Allen commented that 33,000 people are quite an increase and the progress that we have made in this town in the last 10 years is nothing short of amazing and the last couple of years are astounding. This taste of success that our residents are enjoying now is only going to make them want more and he believes the biggest thing we need to understand is now that we have this population, we have to be cognizant that we don't just settle. We have an opportunity to set the bar a little higher and ask for things we deserve and the residents of Indian Trail deserve very positive and effective government. Too frequently we get caught up in the trappings of everything else and forget who we are supposed to be trying to do the job for. He believes this Council has done a great job in staying on topic and advancing in spite of all the sidebar issues. He is looking forward to the results of the citizen survey and is

also looking forward to it being unveiled to me as well as any other taxpaying citizens, it'll be exciting to hear it and digest it at the same time as everyone else. He congratulated Mr. Fivas and the staff on a job well done and thanked them for everything they do.

Mr. Hullinger reminded everyone about daylight savings time.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Jeffrey Goodall made a motion to enter closed session under [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4)] To discuss matters relating to the relocation or expansion of a business in the area served by this body and [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)] To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, conditions of appointment of an officer, public officer, employee or perspective public officer or employee.  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

John Hullinger made a motion to approve entering into Open Session  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**ADJOURN**

John Hullinger made a motion to adjourn  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
John J. Quinn, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Piontek, Town Clerk

